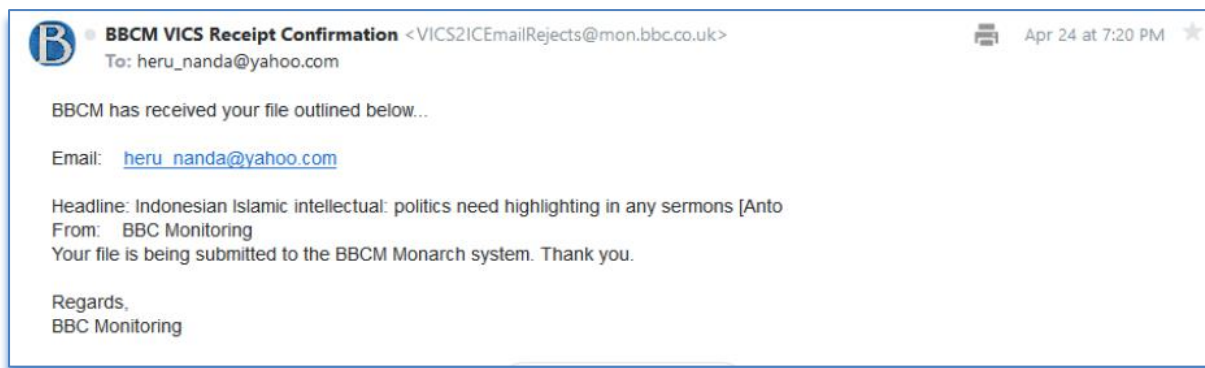


Indonesian Islamic Intellectual: Politics Need highlighting in Any Sermons



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH29_220418]

An Indonesian intellectual Muslim, Prof Dr KH Didin Hafidhuddin, has strongly insisted that it is a must to educate the people that political affairs are not dirty. Didin, who is also an Islamic cleric, said Saturday (on 21 April) that Islam did teach political world to its followers. Political Islam should, thus, be disseminated regularly in every mosque all over the country.

His statement was a response to the programme of anti-politicizing Mosque launched by the so-called Million Volunteers Supporting Jokowi National Movement.

The programme is meant to de-politicize Indonesian mosques. [The co-ordinator of the Movement, Sylver Matutina, said Sunday (on 22 April) that the true function of a mosque as a House of Worship should be re-established and reinforced.] This way the Islamic clerics and mosque management would, indeed, talk and deal with true Islamic teachings in the mosques.

According to him, the one to be banned is to exercise practical politics including to make use any means at all in order to gain power for inappropriate goals.

Mentioning that politics are for good things, the cleric said that "Islam teaches politics." To him, it is political when Muslims say their prayers asking God for granting their leaders with strong faith.

The cleric also believes that anything at all to be discussed in the mosque. All Muslims should vote for leaders with their habits of saying their prayers in the mosque.

Cleric Didin Hafidhuddin, who is also the vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of MUI [the Indonesian Ulema Council], strongly criticized those banning to talk politics in Indonesian mosques. He called such an attitude as parts of secularization movement.

Explaining that it was important for Muslims to gain power, he said that it would accelerate achieving the roads to goodness. He also emphasized that Islamic politics should be highlighted in any sermons. Muslims should, indeed, vote for leaders who are for Islam and care for the state and Nation.

Source: Adhila, suara-islam/read/kabar/nasional/25827/Politik-Islam-Perlu-Dijelaskan-di-Setiap-Khutbah, "Politik Islam Perlu Dijelaskan di Setiap Khutbah (Islamic politics need highlighting in any sermons)", in Indonesian, 22 April 18.

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